

indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. William G. Webster, Jr., 0000

The following named officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be brigadier general

Col. Mark J. MacCarley, 0000

The following Army National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be brigadier general

Col. Daniel J. Nelán, 0000

IN THE NAVY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

Capt. Michael A. Giorgione, 0000

NOMINATIONS PLACED ON THE SECRETARY'S DESK

IN THE AIR FORCE

PN369 AIR FORCE nominations (12) beginning THOMAS M. ANGELO, and ending DANIEL S. ZULLI, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 19, 2007.

PN400 AIR FORCE nominations (84) beginning Thomas I. Anderson, and ending MUSSARET A. ZUBERI, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 26, 2007.

PN406 AIR FORCE nomination of David J. Carrell, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 29, 2007.

PN407 AIR FORCE nomination of James G. Wolf, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 29, 2007.

PN408 AIR FORCE nomination of Craig L. Allen, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 29, 2007.

PN409 AIR FORCE nominations (5) beginning BRIAN L. EVANS, and ending DUNCAN D. SMITH, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 29, 2007.

PN410 AIR FORCE nominations (6) beginning ROBERT W. BEADLE, and ending BRENT S. MILLER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 29, 2007.

PN437 AIR FORCE nomination of Noana Issagrill, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 11, 2007.

IN THE ARMY

PN389 ARMY nomination of Melissa W. Jones, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 22, 2007.

PN390 ARMY nomination of Barbara J. King, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 22, 2007.

PN391 ARMY nominations (2) beginning JAMES F. BECK, and ending KEVIN S. MCKIERNAN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 22, 2007.

PN392 ARMY nominations (9) beginning DANIEL L. HURST, and ending GEORGE T. TALBOT, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 22, 2007.

PN438 ARMY nominations (2) beginning FRANKLIN M. CRANE, and ending GARY T.

KIRCHOFF, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 11, 2007.

PN439 ARMY nominations (11) beginning MARK W. CRUMPTON, and ending D060629, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 11, 2007.

PN440 ARMY nominations (7) beginning THOMAS BROOKS, and ending DEBORAH C. WARREN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 11, 2007.

PN441 ARMY nominations (7) beginning DAMON T. ARNOLD, and ending GILSBERTUS F. VANSTAVAREN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 11, 2007.

PN442 ARMY nomination of D060461, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 11, 2007.

PN443 ARMY nomination of Bernadine F. Peletzfox, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 11, 2007.

PN444 ARMY nomination of D060470, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 11, 2007.

PN445 ARMY nomination of Josef Rivero, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 11, 2007.

PN446 ARMY nomination of Stephen J. Velez, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 11, 2007.

PN451 ARMY nominations (3) beginning KIRK O. AUSTIN, and ending LEE W. SMITHSON, which were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 16, 2007.

PN452 ARMY nominations (4) beginning CRAIG E. BENNETT, and ending DARLENE M. SHEALY, which were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 16, 2007.

IN THE COAST GUARD

PN386 COAST GUARD nominations (3) beginning KIRSTEN R. MARTIN, and ending RICHARD V. TIMME, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 22, 2007.

PN423 COAST GUARD nominations (3) beginning BROOKE E. GRANT, and ending MARIA A. RUTTIG, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 10, 2007.

IN THE MARINE CORPS

PN260 MARINE CORPS nomination of Charles E. Parham Jr., which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 15, 2007.

PN393-1 MARINE CORPS nominations (359) beginning EDUARDO A. ABISELLAN, and ending JOSEPH J. ZARBA JR., which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 22, 2007.

PN394 MARINE CORPS nominations (665) beginning AARON D. ABDULLAH, and ending SCOTT W. ZIMMERMAN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 22, 2007.

PN447 MARINE CORPS nomination of Jason K. Fettig, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 11, 2007.

PN448 MARINE CORPS nomination of Michael J. Colburn, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 11, 2007.

IN THE NAVY

PN269 NAVY nomination of Brian D. Petersen, which was received by the Senate and

appeared in the Congressional Record of February 15, 2007.

PN411 NAVY nomination of Stanley R. Richardson, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 29, 2007.

PN449 NAVY nominations (60) beginning BENJAMIN AMDUR, and ending DAVID M. ZIELINSKI, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 11, 2007.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now return to legislative session.

JOINT REFERRAL OF NOMINATION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the nomination of R. Lyle Laverty, of Colorado, to be Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife, sent to the Senate by the President on March 26, 2007, be referred jointly to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HONORING THE ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT OF SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS IN THE UNITED STATES

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 174.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 174) honoring the entrepreneurial spirit of small business concerns in the United States during National Small Business Week, beginning April 22, 2007.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I am pleased to support during National Small Business Week a bipartisan Senate resolution honoring the entrepreneurial spirit of small business owners throughout the United States. I am privileged to work every day with ranking member, Senator SNOWE and other members of my committee on behalf of small businesses and I am gratified to introduce this legislation with them here today.

Twenty-six million small businesses are currently operating in the United States. They represent 99.7 percent of all employers and account for two-thirds of all new jobs created each year. In addition, they contribute over 50 percent of the Nation's nonfarm gross domestic product. Small businesses are the Nation's innovators, producing 13 to 14 more patents per employee than large businesses, and they account for 97 percent of all exporters.

It is clear that small businesses are a powerful force in the economic vitality that makes America strong, and small businesses would not have this success

were it not for government programs which support them. The Small Business Administration was created to support and protect small business concerns, and they have worked hard to do so. Millions of entrepreneurs have received loans or business counseling, allowing them to start or expand small businesses. Staples, Intel, Nike, and America Online are just a few of the most well-known businesses who received assistance through at least one of the SBA's programs.

Craig A. Bovaird from Princeton, MA, who I met this week when he was honored in Washington as the Massachusetts Small Business Person of the Year, is president of the Built-Rite Tool and Die, Inc. based in Lancaster which specializes in developing and manufacturing thermoplastics for the aerospace, medical, defense and high-tech industries. He is a pillar of his community—proud father of three daughters, involved in his town's finance committee, renovating the public library, and a leader of his church. He had an idea and he had the technical expertise and knowledge about the industry. Craig is passionate about his business. As Craig said, "I enjoy watching an idea go from mind to paper through construction to a finished masterpiece."

But it was John Rainey, a counselor at Clark University's Small Business Development Center in Worcester, who guided Craig through the development of a solid business plan. Craig's business is a success today—against the odds—because his manufacturing business grew and prospered at a time when other plastics companies were on the decline. This is thanks to Craig's hard work, and also thanks to a key SBA program that got him the business counseling he needed.

However, despite these national and local successes, there are a number of issues which continue to be a problem for small businesses, and, in order to encourage continuing economic growth, it is important that Congress take steps to address them. Unfortunately, this administration has repeatedly reduced efforts to support small businesses. A report from the House Small Business Committee notes that the fiscal year 2008 budget would cut or terminate funding for 90 of the 110 Federal programs that were designed to support entrepreneurship. In addition, since 2001, the administration has cut the SBA budget by more than 30 percent. When disaster loan funding is included, the President's fiscal year 2008 budget request is a cut of 45 percent since taking office. The SBA needs adequate funding in order to meet the needs of small businesses.

The administration has also repeatedly called for the reduction or elimination of important loan programs, such as the Microloan program. The Microloan program is a small, efficient, cost-effective program, which provides very small loans and counseling to small businesses. Supporters

in Congress and advocacy groups are requesting very little to fund this program—\$3.2 million for the Microloan program and \$20 million for technical assistance. That is minuscule when compared with U.S. funding for small businesses in other countries. In 2005, the United States spent more than \$200 million on microloan programs in other countries. In 2006, the United States spent more than \$54 million on microloans in Iraq, according to U.S. Ambassador Khalilzad. And, in the President's fiscal year 2007 emergency funding request for the war in Iraq, the administration as requested about \$160 million in microcredit initiatives.

The management assistance programs, such as the Small Business Development Centers, the Women's Business Centers, and the SCORE program, have also suffered under continuing flat or reduced funding. For instance, when taking account into inflation, SBDCs have experienced a 19 percent cut since 2001, despite the fact that this program returns \$2.82 dollars to the Federal Government for every Federal dollar spent. Counseling hours and the number of clients counseled began declining in 2003 and 2004 and have continued to do so. Adequate funding for these programs is essential to prevent further loss of assistance to small businesses.

I also continue to be concerned about the Federal Government's inability to meet the procurement goals set forth in law. The Federal Government has simply done an abysmal job of ensuring that small businesses get their fair share of Federal contracts. For instance, the Department of Defense's 0.5 percent procurement with service-disabled veteran owned firms is significantly below the 3 percent stated goal and is unacceptable. These shortcomings are harming small businesses, and I will continue to push to make sure small businesses get a fair chance at selling to the Federal Government.

Nearly 2 years after Hurricane Katrina, small business owners and homeowners are struggling just to keep their doors open. Many of them were turned down or simply gave up on the SBA when they needed government assistance the most. The Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship recently reported a bill that would comprehensively reform the disaster loan program, and I urge my colleagues to support passage of this important legislation. This critical legislation will help all small businesses who are faced with a catastrophe through no fault of their own.

Patrick Turley, president of Turley Publications, Inc., in Palmer, MA, is the face of why we need an efficient disaster loan program that is a handup, not a handout. Patrick was also honored this week in Washington with the Phoenix Award for Small Business Disaster Recovery. When his business faced massive flooding in October 2005, which caused \$993,000 in property losses, Patrick rallied his employees

and still printed two university newspapers on time. With the help of an SBA disaster loan, Patrick was able to resume running his plant at full capacity just 5 months after the storms.

Patrick's perseverance, leadership and courage in the wake of a disaster are commendable. By keeping his plant running, he kept people working and showed the people of Palmer that they too could overcome adversity.

I am proud of the many hardworking Americans like Craig and Patrick and the millions of others who face the risk and uncertainties inherent in opening and running a small business each day, and I applaud the achievements of the owners and their employees. Their hard work and dedication contribute tremendously to the economic well-being of this great Nation and deserve to be supported by the Federal Government.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to this matter be printed in the RECORD, without intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 174) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 174

Whereas the 25,800,000 small business concerns in the United States are the driving force behind the Nation's economy, creating more than ¾ of all net new jobs and generating more than 50 percent of the Nation's nonfarm gross domestic product;

Whereas small business concerns are the Nation's innovators, advancing technology and productivity;

Whereas small business concerns represent 97 percent of all exporters and produce 28.6 percent of exported goods;

Whereas Congress established the Small Business Administration in 1953, to aid, counsel, assist, and protect the interests of small business concerns in order to preserve free competitive enterprise, to ensure that a fair proportion of the total purchases and contracts or subcontracts for property and services for the Federal Government be placed with small business concerns, to ensure that a fair proportion of the total sales of Government property be made to such small business concerns, and to maintain and strengthen the overall economy of the Nation;

Whereas the Small Business Administration has helped small business concerns access critical lending opportunities, protected small business concerns from excessive Federal regulatory enforcement, played a key role in ensuring full and open competition for Government contracts, and improved the economic environment in which small business concerns compete;

Whereas for over 50 years, the Small Business Administration has helped millions of entrepreneurs achieve the American dream of owning a small business concern, and has played a key role in fostering economic growth; and

Whereas the President has designated the week beginning April 22, 2007 as "National Small Business Week": Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) honors the entrepreneurial spirit of small business concerns in the United States during National Small Business Week, beginning April 22, 2007;

(2) applauds the efforts and achievements of the owners of small business concerns and their employees, whose hard work and commitment to excellence have made them a key part of the Nation's economic vitality;

(3) recognizes the work of the Small Business Administration and its resource partners in providing assistance to entrepreneurs and small business concerns;

(4) strongly urges the President to take steps to ensure that—

(A) the applicable procurement goals for small business concerns, including the goals for small business concerns owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans, small business concerns owned and controlled by women, HUBZone small business concerns, and small business concerns owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals, are reached by all Federal agencies;

(B) guaranteed loans, including microloans and microloan technical assistance, for start-up and growing small business concerns and venture capital are made available to all qualified small business concerns;

(C) the management assistance programs delivered by resource partners on behalf of the Small Business Administration, such as small business development centers, women's business centers, and the Service Corps of Retired Executives, are provided with the Federal resources necessary to do their jobs; and

(D) reforms to the disaster loan program of the Small Business Administration are implemented as quickly as possible; and

(5) urges that, as was the case in the President's budget for fiscal year 2008, the Small Business Administration continue to be designated as a major agency in the President's budget submitted pursuant to section 1105 of title 31, United States Code, and that the Administrator of the Small Business Administration have an active role as a member of the President's Cabinet.

RECOGNIZING THE 59TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 175.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 175) recognizing the 59th anniversary of the independence of the State of Israel.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 175) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 175

Whereas, on May 14, 1948, the State of Israel was established as a sovereign and independent country;

Whereas the United States was one of the first countries to recognize the State of Israel, only 11 minutes after the creation of the State;

Whereas Israel has provided Jews from all over the world with an opportunity to reestablish their ancient homeland;

Whereas Israel is home to many religious sites that are sacred to Judaism, Christianity, and Islam;

Whereas Israel provided a refuge to Jews who survived the horrors of the Holocaust, which were unprecedented in human history;

Whereas Israel has also provided a refuge to, and has successfully absorbed, more than 800,000 Jewish refugees who fled persecution in neighboring states in the Middle East;

Whereas the people of Israel have established a pluralistic democracy that incorporates the freedoms cherished by the people of the United States, including—

- (1) the freedom of speech;
- (2) the freedom of religion;
- (3) the freedom of association;
- (4) the freedom of the press; and
- (5) government by the consent of the governed;

Whereas Israel continues to serve as a shining model of democratic values by—

- (1) regularly holding free and fair elections;
- (2) promoting the free exchange of ideas; and
- (3) vigorously exercising in its parliament, the Knesset, a democratic government that is fully representative of its citizens;

Whereas Israel has bravely defended itself from terrorist and military attacks repeatedly since Israel declared its independence;

Whereas the Government of Israel has successfully worked with the neighboring governments of Egypt and Jordan to establish peaceful bilateral relations;

Whereas, despite the deaths of over 1,000 innocent citizens of Israel at the hands of murderous suicide bombers and other terrorists since 2002, the people of Israel continue to seek peace with their Palestinian neighbors;

Whereas several Israeli soldiers remain hostages of terrorist groups, and were unable to celebrate the Independence Day of Israel with their families and friends;

Whereas successive leaders of Israel have sought peace in the Middle East;

Whereas the United States and Israel enjoy a strategic partnership based on shared democratic values, friendship, and respect;

Whereas the people of the United States share an affinity with the people of Israel and view Israel as a strong and trusted ally;

Whereas Israel has made significant global contributions in the fields of science, medicine, and technology;

Whereas the Independence Day of Israel on the Jewish calendar coincides this year with April 24, 2007; and

Whereas recognition of the numerous achievements of the people and the State of Israel is especially important in 2007 given the grave threats issued by, and the clear intentions of, the Government of Iran: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the independence of the State of Israel as a significant event for providing refuge and a national homeland for the Jewish people;

(2) strongly supports efforts to bring peace to the Middle East;

(3) commends the bipartisan commitment of all Presidents and Congresses of the United States since 1948 that supported Israel and worked for the security and well-being of Israel;

(4) congratulates the United States and Israel for strengthening their bilateral relations during 2006 in the fields of defense, di-

plomacy, and homeland security, and encourages both countries to continue their cooperation in resolving mutual challenges; and

(5) extends the best wishes of the Senate to the people of Israel as they celebrate the 59th anniversary of the independence of the State of Israel.

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—H.R. 493

Mr. REID. Mr. President, H.R. 493 has been received from the House and is at the desk and due for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 493) to prohibit discrimination on the basis of genetic information with respect to health insurance and employment.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask for a second reading but object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, APRIL 30, 2007

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 2:45 p.m. on Monday, April 30; that on Monday, following the prayer and the pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed to have expired, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that there then be a period of morning business until 4:15 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each; that at 4:15, the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 120, S. 1082, the FDA authorization bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. REID. Mr. President, as I just indicated in the consent approved, we will begin consideration of the FDA bill on Monday. In view of the consent being granted, I announce to both sides of the aisle that there will be no roll-call votes on Monday. We will vote Tuesday prior to the conference recess. So there will be votes Tuesday morning, and everybody should plan accordingly.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, APRIL 30, 2007, AT 2:45 P.M.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, if there is no further business today, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6 p.m., adjourned until Monday, April 30, 2007, at 2:45 p.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate April 26, 2007: